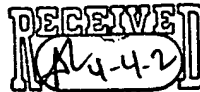


Official115A
4-11-02IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: A.H. Christofferson et al. Examiner: K.Y. Vu
Serial No.: 09/409,613 Group Art Unit: 2172
Filed: October 1, 1999 Docket No.: RO999091
TITLE: METHOD, SYSTEM, AND PROGRAM FOR ACCESSING FILES IN A FILE
SYSTEM

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 3, 2001.


David W. VictorAMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the to a first non-final office action ("Office Action") entered in the above case on August 1, 2001. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected all pending claims 1-27 in view of cited art. Applicants traverse these rejections for the reasons discussed herein and submit that the pending claims, including the added claims 28-36, are patentable over the cited art and in condition for allowance.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add claims 28-36 as follows:

28. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- searching the file system for one preexisting file having the same name as the input file name if the data structure indicates that one preexisting file has a name that maps, according to the function, to the same value to which the input file maps; and
- performing an operation if the file system includes one preexisting file having the same name as the input file.
- B2*